



Walnut Creek Watershed

Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District



A portion of the Walnut Creek drainage with State Route 4 and Mount Diablo in the background.

Award Amount

\$260,000

Watershed

Walnut Creek Watershed

County

Contra Costa County

CALFED Region

Bay Region

Legislative Districts

US Congress: 7

State Assembly: 8

State Senate: 2

Purpose

Restore and revegetate the lower Walnut Creek Channel by reducing point and non-point source sedimentation into the Walnut Creek drainage.

Project Goals

- Restore riparian areas in the Walnut Creek Watershed.
- Reduce excessive erosion and soil loss.
- Improve water quality.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

Walnut Creek flows to the Bay-Delta via the Suisun Bay and is a component of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan's Suisun Marsh Ecological Management Zone. Implementation of this project addresses multiple CALFED Program objectives. Ecosystem benefits include improvements in aquatic and terrestrial habitat. Water quality improvements include reductions in pollutant loads and control of point and non-point source pollution. This project also contributes to water supply reliability by enhancing the watershed's ability to absorb, store, and release water.

Project Overview

The 180-square-mile Walnut Creek Watershed is located in central Contra Costa County and is a tributary to the Suisun Bay. Major cities in the watershed include San Ramon, Lafayette, Danville, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, and Concord. Water quality in Walnut Creek and its tributaries is degraded owing to excessive erosion and sedimentation associated with stormwater runoff from construction sites, pesticide and fertilizer runoff from agricultural and residential areas, storm drain contamination owing to improper oil and grease disposal, illegal dumping of toxic fluids, and accidental spills of contaminants. These water quality problems result in accidental fish kills, degraded aquatic habitat, and potential public health hazards.

This project develops an integrated watershed plan for Walnut Creek. The plan addresses a number of issues, including sedimentation, re-vegetation, fish migration barriers, toxic pollutant contamination, non-point source pollution, restoration, and information sharing. The anticipated outcome is immediate and long-term reduction in point and non-point sediment production into Suisun Bay. Other expected outcomes include reduced erosion and soil loss, improved water quality, enhanced ecosystems along the corridor, restoration of vegetative cover, and continued education of public and private entities about watershed restoration.



Water flows through revegetated areas in the lower Walnut Creek channel.

Contact Information

Kevin Emigh
Contra Costa County Flood Control District
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
Telephone: (925) 313-2333
E-mail: kemigh@pw.co.contra-costa.ca.us